



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

703-248-5003

FAX 703-248-5146

publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005

CONTACT:

Nicole Gobbo

703-248-5210

Falls Church City Council Approves \$10,000 Donation to American Red Cross and Appoints Task Force for Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The City of Falls Church City Council donated \$10,000 from the City's contingency fund to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief efforts at their Monday, Sept. 12, 2005 Council meeting. The City Council also appointed a task force to coordinate an organized, efficient, and responsive approach to assist the affected localities. The City Council's commitment to provide a significant and coordinated response to address the needs of victims in the Gulf states represents the compassion and eagerness of local residents to assist those displaced and affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The City Council-appointed Hurricane Katrina Relief Task Force will coordinate the City's response to the needs of homeless individuals, local governments, and communities affected by the devastation. The Task Force will work for one year, with their efforts concluding on Sept. 1, 2006. The Task Force will brainstorm ways to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina, develop plans for providing assistance, work with City staff to plan public events to benefit the victims, obtain donations to aid the victims, work with local and national organizations to coordinate relief efforts, and prepare a schedule to ensure the community's contributions reach the intended recipients at the right time.

The Task Force is comprised of a diverse membership of at least one City Council member, representative from Falls Church Public Schools, City staff member, and three City residents. Current members include, but are not limited to: Marty Meserve, Vice Mayor; Robin Gardner, City Council Member; Lois Berlin, FCCPS Superintendent; Peter Holran, City Resident and Planning Commission; Tori McKinney, City Resident and PTA; Dennis Warner, City Resident and Historic Commission; Robert Murray, Chief of Police; Letha Flippin, City Housing & Human Services Division; Nicole Gobbo, City Office of Communications; Howard Herman, City Recreation & Parks Division; Sandy Ingram-Salang, Office of the City Manager; Cindy Mester, City Department of Community Services; Adrienne Raines, City Department of Community Services; Helen Reinecke-Wilt, City Planning Division; Linda Weikle, City Recreation & Parks Division.

Area residents are encouraged to visit the Safe & Secure Demonstration Area at the City's Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005 to obtain emergency preparedness tips and view equipment. The Falls Church Police Department is cosponsoring a local fundraiser inviting Fall Festival patrons to help fill up a police car with monetary donations; all proceeds will benefit law enforcement officers in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Red Cross representatives will be also present to accept monetary donations to their Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief fund. Those who wish to make in-kind donations are encouraged to give to the Capital Area Food Bank/America's Second Harvest (www.capitalareafoodbank.org) and Crosslink International (www.crosslinkinternational.net). Persons coordinating relief efforts in Falls Church City (e.g., Boy Scout Troops, neighborhood groups, etc.) are asked to register their e-mail address at the Fall Festival Safe & Secure Area or contact Adrienne Raines at araines@fallschurchva.gov with their name, organization, phone number, and e-mail address so the City may serve as a clearinghouse for such efforts.

For more information regarding the City's coordinated efforts or for links to charitable relief organizations please visit www.fallschurchva.gov.

###

www.fallschurchva.gov